

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, )  
 )  
Plaintiff, ) No. 2:18-cr-00090-JCC  
 )  
vs. ) Seattle, WA  
 )  
THOMAS MAHONEY, )  
 )  
Defendant. ) Sentencing  
 ) January 8, 2019

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VERBATIM REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS  
BEFORE THE HONORABLE JUDGE JOHN C. COUGHENOUR  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

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APPEARANCES:

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1 THE CLERK: Calling case CR18-90, United States of  
2 America vs. Thomas Mahoney.

3 Counsel, please make your appearances.

4 MS. GREGSON: Cecelia Gregson, for the government,  
5 and seated to my right is Special Agent Jayme McFarland. Also  
6 present today are the victim advocate, the victim, and the  
7 victim's mother.

8 MR. CANTOR: And good morning, Your Honor, Jesse  
9 Cantor. I'm here with Thomas Mahoney.

10 THE COURT: Mr. Cantor, has he had an opportunity to  
11 review and comment on the presentence report?

12 MR. CANTOR: Yes, he has.

13 THE COURT: All right. Do you wish to be heard?

14 MR. CANTOR: Yes. Your Honor, all parties are in  
15 agreement that the mandatory minimum in this case is a  
16 sufficient sentence for Mr. Mahoney. I think what persuaded  
17 the government -- and Ms. Gregson certainly will correct me if  
18 I'm wrong -- but I believe wholeheartedly that what persuaded  
19 the government to come to this resolution was, in large part,  
20 the evaluation that we submitted to the Court, which was filed  
21 under seal, and I hope the Court's had an opportunity to review  
22 that.

23 But what that evaluation, without going into the details,  
24 tells us, in the end, is that Mr. Mahoney, from this point  
25 forward, will demonstrate and has demonstrated to be a low risk

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1 of reoffending. And on top of that, he's also amenable to  
2 treatment.

3 The evaluation, as well as the presentence report,  
4 highlight the challenges that my client has faced over the  
5 course of his 23, 24 years -- 25 now, I believe he is, starting  
6 with the suicide of his father; his battles with substance  
7 abuse; being diagnosed with what everyone thought was a  
8 terminal cancer that practically killed him, almost killed him,  
9 and miraculously he was able to survive that, at the age of 20.  
10 And just imagine the stress that that builds upon such a young  
11 individual, an individual who also, at the same time, had been  
12 diagnosed with bipolar disorder, depression; again, depression  
13 stemming from the suicide of his father that he idolized.

14 And all of these stresses compounded on Mr. Mahoney to the  
15 point where he needed medication. He was prescribed medication  
16 to stabilize him. And during the period of this offense  
17 conduct, he refused to take his meds. And I have personally  
18 witnessed the drastic change between a man who now is on his  
19 meds and is following the treatment recommendations and the  
20 agenda set by his physician and the people at the Federal  
21 Detention Center, the psychiatrists; he's a completely  
22 different individual than the person that we heard rambling on  
23 a recorded audio that the agents had recorded when Mr. Mahoney  
24 had been arrested.

25 He's a different person in terms of how he takes care of

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1 himself vis-a-vis how he took care of himself prior to his  
2 arrest. You know, in the discovery, for example, there were  
3 photos of what happened during the search of his place, that he  
4 was living in a garbage dump; just really didn't care much  
5 about himself or anything at that point. And that's because he  
6 wasn't thinking logically. And he is now. And at least what  
7 I've noticed when I've met with Mr. Mahoney on several  
8 occasions -- I meet with him frequently -- is that he thinks  
9 more clearly, more logically, and he appreciates and  
10 understands the consequences of his actions.

11 I included in my materials research about how the  
12 adolescent brain takes time to develop, to the point where our  
13 brains really are not developed until the age of 25. And I  
14 think at this point what's at least been made clear to me is  
15 that Mr. Mahoney not only empathizes with the victim, and is  
16 sorry for the pain that he has caused her, but he is also  
17 motivated to do something about that. He is agreeable and  
18 amenable to not only deviancy treatment, but this time also  
19 taking his medication regimen seriously. And he's been doing  
20 that for at least during the time that I've been representing  
21 him, which has been almost over a year now.

22 So I think on those grounds, all parties agree that 120  
23 months is sufficient. What this case really is at its core --  
24 everyone should agree to this -- is that it's a rape of a child  
25 in the third degree. And what pushed Mr. Mahoney over the edge

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1 is that, unfortunately, he did what -- he did what most  
2 millennials do these days, and that's record everything. And  
3 that's what brought this case into federal court. Take away  
4 those private recordings and Mr. Mahoney would be in the  
5 Snohomish County system facing a maximum of 60 months. But  
6 those recordings, he acknowledges, were aggravating facts. He  
7 fully accepted responsibility to that. And he agreed to spend  
8 at least the next ten years of his life in prison, and I'm  
9 hoping the Court follows that recommendation.

10 With respect to the guidelines, Your Honor, all parties  
11 seem to be in agreement about the guidelines, except for a  
12 couple of adjustments. I just want to highlight these two  
13 adjustments. I don't know if it's going to make that much of a  
14 difference, given the government's recommendation for a  
15 departure of three levels for this psychosexual evaluation.  
16 But the plus-two adjustment for the commission of a sexual act,  
17 together with the plus-two adjustment for using a computer to  
18 entice a minor to engage in a sexual act, I submit, is double  
19 counting. And for purposes of offense conduct and the purposes  
20 behind why these enhancements are there in the first place,  
21 they seem to be punishing the same thing, and that is sexual  
22 contact with a minor.

23 If the Court agrees with my calculations and imposes or  
24 applies the departure, Mr. Mahoney would be at a total offense  
25 level of 31 with a guideline range of 120 to 135. If the

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1 government [sic] disagrees and follows Ms. Gregson's  
2 calculations, it's just really one level up, and the range  
3 would be 121 to 151. So even the guidelines are close to what  
4 all parties are recommending.

5 Finally, Your Honor, I'm just going to end on this.  
6 Mr. Mahoney has been in custody in the Snohomish County system  
7 since October 31 of 2017. And it took several weeks, a few  
8 months, quite frankly, for him to be transferred to the Federal  
9 Detention Center. And I think under, what is it, USSG? -- I  
10 wrote this down -- 5G1.3, even though he was in the Snohomish  
11 County system, given that that offense conduct was taken over  
12 by the feds and what he's being punished for today, he should  
13 get credit for that time served, for that time that he served  
14 in Snohomish County. So I would ask the Court to include in  
15 the judgment that Mr. Mahoney receive credit for time served  
16 since his arrest. And he's been in custody ever since, since  
17 October 31, 2017.

18 And, finally, he recommends, because his family is from  
19 New Jersey, that he recommends placement at FCI Fort Dix,  
20 D-I-X.

21 Thank you.

22 THE COURT: Include the Fort Dix recommendation,  
23 Ms. Gregson.

24 Does he wish to speak?

25 MR. CANTOR: He was wavering on that. Let me find

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1 out.

2 Do you mind if Mr. Mahoney speaks from the desk here?

3 THE COURT: That's fine.

4 MR. CANTOR: Thank you.

5 THE DEFENDANT: I just want to say sorry to Katie and  
6 her mother, and that I wish that I could have been on my  
7 medication, because I probably wouldn't have made a lot of all  
8 those stupid choices.

9 And then I just want to focus on bettering myself and make  
10 the best of my life, going forward. And hopefully I can be  
11 placed near my family; if not Fort Dix, somewhere close by  
12 there. And I guess that's it.

13 THE COURT: All right. Ms. Gregson?

14 MS. GREGSON: Thank you, Your Honor.

15 For the reasons that follow, the government is  
16 recommending the total term of 120 months and ten years of  
17 supervision, with all of the conditions, of course, that  
18 U.S. Probation has recommended.

19 I'm also asking that the Court add another condition under  
20 the special conditions, Number 18, the judgment and sentence,  
21 which specifically precludes contact with the victim. I'm  
22 intentionally not naming the victim or her mother in this  
23 proceeding, per their request.

24 Although I do not have restitution amounts, I would like  
25 to ask for 30 days to bring that before the Court so the family

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1 has time to pull things together. There's just been a lot of  
2 chaos.

3 THE COURT: That's fine. And you can add the  
4 condition of no contact.

5 MS. GREGSON: Thank you.

6 Would the Court be willing to let the family address the  
7 Court prior to the government's statements?

8 THE COURT: Yes.

9 MS. GREGSON: Thank you.

10 VICTIM'S MOTHER: Reflecting on the last two-plus  
11 years, the crimes Mr. Mahoney committed against my daughter  
12 have forever changed her life and all members of our family.  
13 Her ability to engage in school and form healthy, peer-to-peer  
14 relationships and understand healthy male-female relationships,  
15 interact with her family, and enjoy life changed dramatically.

16 Her three little brothers were also impacted. For two  
17 years, they lost a loving sister and a role model to a time of  
18 abuse and recovery. In the process, I feel like they lost two  
19 years of their own childhoods.

20 My daughter's relationship with her stepfather was damaged  
21 beyond repair as he did not know how to support recovery from  
22 such a heinous and intimate abuse and withdrew completely from  
23 the relationship and resented loss of his wife to the healing  
24 process of his stepdaughter. Although he was a first responder  
25 for 12 years, he did not know how to talk to a child who had



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1 experienced such severe sexual abuse and whose world had shrunk  
2 to that abuse and the focus of recovery. There were no longer  
3 friends, sports, grades, or career plans to talk about. He  
4 didn't know what to say to a teen about counseling or recovery,  
5 so he stopped talking completely and retreated to his office.

6 The silence was so painful to my daughter, and I felt so  
7 alone in supporting her recovery, that I decided the day after  
8 Thanksgiving to end my ten-year relationship and eight-year  
9 marriage to a wonderful man who had taken on the task of  
10 raising three stepkids, but found facing and moving beyond the  
11 horrors of Mr. Mahoney's abuse too much and beyond his  
12 emotional capacities. At some level, I realized that I had  
13 been blaming my husband for not keeping her safe when I was  
14 away on business trips, when all the blame rests with  
15 Mr. Mahoney.

16 My attention during the year of ongoing, undiscovered  
17 abuse was laser-focused on determining what had happened to my  
18 intelligent, loving daughter who had suddenly seemed to  
19 withdraw completely from the world and spent much of her time  
20 too consumed by anxiety to function at all. She couldn't even  
21 go to the grocery store, couldn't go to school, barely could  
22 come out of her room, and no longer participated in fun, family  
23 activities. There were actually months periods of time where  
24 she sat curled in a ball on the floor in her bedroom.

25 We saw specialists from Stanford adept at diagnosing

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1 genetic diseases and infectious triggers for her health  
2 deterioration. She was referred to rheumatologists,  
3 neurologists, chronic fatigue specialists, educational  
4 psychologists, psychiatrists, and geneticists.

5 I am a scientist, by training, who works in the medical  
6 field. My nights were spent, until 2:00 to 3:00 a.m. each  
7 morning, researching on PubMed and generating protein  
8 interaction networks of her genetic changes, trying to explain  
9 a diverse array of physical and psychological symptoms.

10 What was wrong with my daughter? What was causing her  
11 physical, intellectual, mental, and social decline? The answer  
12 was that she was being sexually and emotionally abused by  
13 Mr. Mahoney. The doctors saw the signs of abuse and  
14 interpreted them, in light of their various specialties, with  
15 an array of confusing diagnoses and referrals. We only finally  
16 understood what she had been going through after Mr. Mahoney's  
17 arrest.

18 When I learned of what had happened, and the way our  
19 daughter had been controlled by a stranger who targeted her on  
20 the internet, I was devastated. I felt like our daughter was  
21 an Elizabeth Smart or Patty Hearst, been held captive, abused  
22 and controlled over a year, while seemingly safe at home.

23 My husband is in cybersecurity. We had extensive controls  
24 and monitoring on our kids' internet, but Mr. Mahoney had  
25 coached her on using apps to communicate, that we couldn't

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1 detect.

2 Since my kids were little, we have stressed safety. My  
3 first husband, and my daughter's father, is an emergency room  
4 physician. I made him a present, before she was born, called  
5 "The Careful Daddy Safety Manual." It was roughly 30 pages  
6 long. Her formative years were all about safety and avoiding  
7 hazards, including chokers, electrocutes, and, yes, internet  
8 predation.

9 We looked up registered sex offenders in every  
10 neighborhood we moved. I especially pointed out people who  
11 didn't look particularly scary. We talked about risks from  
12 coaches, childcare providers, neighbors, teachers, or any  
13 trusted adult that had extensive time alone with kids.

14 My grandmother volunteered for the local police support  
15 volunteer service, COPS, and all our phones, fridges, and  
16 computers were covered with magnets and stickers on internet  
17 safety tips.

18 Our children weren't allowed to use social media early.  
19 When we found online accounts they made visiting with their  
20 friends or their dad, we actively reported them and had them  
21 deleted. It was only when I finished my graduate program and  
22 took a job in another state, requiring our family to move, that  
23 we let our daughter have Facebook, after a middle school  
24 counselor said we should loosen up and let her have it, because  
25 she really missed her old friends and needed a modern way to

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1 stay in touch. She had only been on Facebook eight months when  
2 Mr. Mahoney targeted and assaulted her.

3 Learning that we had failed to keep her safe was  
4 devastating. I now realize that I'm the first generation of  
5 parents that is dealing with predators getting to target  
6 hundreds and hundreds of kids until they find the one that's  
7 vulnerable.

8 I took two months off work to support her healing but also  
9 because of a personal diagnosis of PTSD from the trauma  
10 suffered by the person I love most in the world being hurt.  
11 You see, my job as a medical science liaison requires travel to  
12 medical conferences and major academic research hospitals to  
13 support clinical trials. My daughter and I have always had an  
14 incredibly close relationship, with high levels of daily  
15 communication. We often stay up late, far past the rest of the  
16 family, talking. My husband and I both work remotely, so  
17 someone is almost always home throughout the day. So  
18 Mr. Mahoney targeted his travel and physical assaults to when  
19 she was most vulnerable, the three to four times a year when I  
20 am away, for four to five days at a time, for medical  
21 conferences.

22 As I said, I took two months' leave to support my  
23 daughter's healing, after learning of her abuse upon  
24 Mr. Mahoney's travel. But when I returned to work, I still  
25 couldn't bring myself to travel. I did as much work as I could

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1 locally, and took day trips, but did not feel like she was safe  
2 for me to be gone overnight. Her anxiety was understandably  
3 high with any of my travel, despite her brothers and stepdad  
4 being home with her. But without my emotional support, she  
5 just wasn't ready, and neither was I. My work output suffered.  
6 My team lead tried to cover by also reducing his output and  
7 saying it had just been a slow quarter, but our team was  
8 eliminated within a few months.

9 After six weeks, I got a new job in the same field, but  
10 travel was still a challenge. A few hours before flying away  
11 for my first medical conference at the new job, on November 29  
12 of 2018, my daughter had an emotional outburst requiring a 5150  
13 and hospitalization. I cut my time at the conference short,  
14 flew back to San Francisco to get her, and brought her back to  
15 the conference with me.

16 Of course, I had to divulge some of the aspects to my boss  
17 about why I needed to leave for these five hours, but I lost my  
18 job within the week. Though it was blamed on a merger, my  
19 colleagues' positions weren't eliminated. My employer knew I  
20 could not do my job with my daughter's high need for emotional  
21 support and particular challenges during my work travel. With  
22 enrollment for a critical clinical trial approaching, they  
23 couldn't take a risk.

24 My daughter's anxiety when I travel is clearly due to the  
25 abuse she suffered at the hands of Mr. Mahoney during my prior

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1 work trips. Realistically, I need to effect a career change.  
2 As someone in a field making roughly \$200,000 a year, who's  
3 always been the primary earner in the family and will be the  
4 sole breadwinner after my divorce, this is easier said than  
5 done. None of this would be happening if Mr. Mahoney had  
6 followed the law and stayed away from my daughter.

7 I want the Court to know: We're here. We found a way to  
8 get here.

9 As to my other kids, the year-plus of abuse robbed both my  
10 daughter and the other kids of normal, fun, family experiences.  
11 A trip planned for months, to Disneyland, was canceled as we  
12 were climbing into the car, because my daughter had extreme  
13 anxiety. Why? Unbeknownst to us, Mr. Mahoney had threatened  
14 to kill a teen friend of my daughter. The two families had  
15 planned to meet up, and the teens were going to help take the  
16 younger kids around. But Mr. Mahoney had told my daughter he  
17 already had a flight to Los Angeles and was going to stalk our  
18 family and kill the boy if they met.

19 After his arrest, my daughter struggled intensely with  
20 processing all that happened to her. We would stay up until  
21 3:00 or 4:00 in the morning talking it through. But I wasn't  
22 there for my other kids, or my husband, as my daughter needed  
23 the support. My four-year-old was kicked out of two preschools  
24 as he modeled some of the tumultuous emotional behavior and  
25 language he'd seen at home. We then kept him home for three

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1 months to help him with emotional regulation, further  
2 restricting my ability to perform work. My oldest son withdrew  
3 from the emotional turmoil. He's only now just reemerging. My  
4 middle son let everything at school decline. The fallout from  
5 Mr. Mahoney's abuse affected everything in our lives.

6 For the year of abuse, my daughter was in such poor  
7 physical and emotional health that she could not successfully  
8 attend school. She tried a home study program where she went  
9 in one hour a week, but her anxiety was so severe that she'd  
10 lay curled in the chair, and they referred her back to her home  
11 high school for special education services evaluation. She had  
12 a hospital home instructor for a few months but could not  
13 focus. We did not know she came to some of her tutoring  
14 sessions directly after being raped by Mr. Mahoney.

15 After the abuse came to light, the school tried to give  
16 her proper supports to return to her prior potential, but  
17 everyone had learned from the internet what had happened. She  
18 was prejudged by everyone before they met her, and the anxiety  
19 of everyone knowing was too severe to focus in class. The most  
20 private details of the abuse had been posted on the internet,  
21 including the indictment, linking her name and address forever  
22 to the events that should have been private. We were doxed, we  
23 were swatted, and she was repeatedly targeted until the  
24 pressure became so much that there was no relief other than a  
25 legal name change, leaving her school, and starting a new life.

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1 This gave the gift of anonymity, but it is a barrier in forming  
2 healthy friendships as she no longer has her identity or  
3 history to share with new friends.

4 As to financial impacts, there is a mountain of medical  
5 bills from a number of 5150 ambulance calls, holds, and  
6 hospitalizations in the few months just after the abuse ended.  
7 In January 2017, my daughter broke all the windows out of the  
8 first floor of our home. She told the police she did it  
9 because she wanted to go to jail to be sure it was a bad enough  
10 place for Mr. Mahoney and to be sure he was suffering at least  
11 as much as she was.

12 There are unreimbursed bills for PTSD counseling. The  
13 counselor told us that my daughter may need three to four years  
14 of counseling, with support again at various times such as  
15 marriage or having kids. There are costs of the name changes.  
16 The bills are getting fewer, but the effects are still  
17 impacting her. I anticipate needing to declare bankruptcy, at  
18 some point, due to the bills.

19 My daughter is in behavior skills counseling. She was  
20 recently diagnosed with Asperger's and autism spectrum  
21 disorder. The diagnosis has helped us understand how social  
22 isolation makes girls on the spectrum especially susceptible to  
23 predation by men like Mr. Mahoney. They are often socially  
24 isolated and can't see obvious red flags of abuse or predation.  
25 Our newfound knowledge will help her relearn what a healthy



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1 relationship looks like, something that has been made  
2 especially hard by the warped abuse she suffered at his hands.

3 My daughter has suffered from autism spectrum eating  
4 disorders. Mr. Mahoney used this information to keep her weak,  
5 insecure, and silent. He learned everything she loved or  
6 considered a strength of herself, and then tore her down so  
7 that she felt worthless. His sexism was rampant. She is just  
8 now relearning that all the things he told her about women, and  
9 especially about her, that she wasn't good at and women weren't  
10 good at, were really just his ways of controlling her.

11 My daughter has also now been diagnosed with severe OCD.  
12 Her ruminating thoughts touch upon sexual abuse. Her  
13 compulsions were coping mechanisms she developed during the  
14 abuse by Mr. Mahoney. She also has OCD behaviors related to  
15 money. These arose from the college savings money Mr. Mahoney  
16 manipulated him [sic] to give her [sic] for rent and travel.  
17 She has a hard time now spending money to put gas in her car,  
18 even if she's holding the cash in her hand. These behaviors  
19 did not exist before Mr. Mahoney's abuse. The symptomology is  
20 so severe, inpatient treatment at Harvard McLean has been  
21 recommended at a potential cost of up to \$70,000.

22 She also struggles with what she describes as  
23 psychological drug addiction. She says she's currently not  
24 taking any drugs, but Mr. Mahoney introduced her to both  
25 alcohol and drugs. She was addicted to illegally obtained

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1 Xanax during the course of the abuse. She had never drank,  
2 done drugs, or even had a first boyfriend when she met  
3 Mr. Mahoney. He targeted her when she was only 13 years old.  
4 Now, under stress, she still craves escape by the mechanisms  
5 Mr. Mahoney used while assaulting and emotionally abusing her,  
6 but makes a conscious choice to try to abstain. Still,  
7 exposing a young teen to drugs during a period of rapid brain  
8 remodeling alters the reward circuitry in a way that has  
9 created a risk for the remainder of her life.

10 Before Mr. Mahoney, my daughter was a profoundly gifted  
11 student with perfectionist tendencies, who was concerned about  
12 pleasing others and hyper-focused on academics and going to  
13 college. She'd never had discipline issues. She had a close  
14 and loving relationship with her family and always had one or  
15 two really close friends. She had received high scores on her  
16 ACTs, at 13 years old, and was a final candidate for early  
17 college entrance at University of Washington through the  
18 Robinson Center's Doogie-Howser-type program. Then Mr. Mahoney  
19 annihilated her dreams and told her she was just as worthless,  
20 except to him, as he must have himself felt. She's back in  
21 school, still somehow entering college early and maintaining a  
22 4.0 through her first semester, but she battles with many of  
23 the issues Mr. Mahoney brought into her life on a daily basis.

24 Our family has changed irreparably. My marriage is over.  
25 My career may be close behind. My daughter and her siblings

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1 lost a stepdad that had been there since they were two, four,  
2 and six. Her own father disowned her because of what happened.  
3 As a Middle-Eastern man, his perception was that being raped  
4 brought shame on his family.

5 Mr. Mahoney's plea bargain is for ten years to life. Ten  
6 years, to me, does not seem nearly enough for the damage  
7 brought to my daughter and our family. And we told our Contra  
8 Costa sex crimes detective as such during the plea  
9 negotiations. We ask the Court to consider a longer sentence  
10 of at least 15 years. It will take us, individually, at least  
11 that long to recover from the extensive damage he has caused,  
12 and our family, as it existed before Mr. Mahoney's crimes, has  
13 been irrevocably obliterated.

14 MS. GREGSON: The victim would like to address the  
15 Court.

16 THE COURT: Sure.

17 VICTIM: So I guess I'll just -- I didn't write  
18 anything, so I'll just present facts.

19 So I guess I was 14 years old. I was working at  
20 McDonald's. I was giving him all of my paychecks, as loans,  
21 because he wouldn't get a job. I remember getting -- I asked  
22 for money for Christmas, instead of presents, so that I would  
23 have money to give him. And I ended up loaning him \$5,000,  
24 total, which now, looking back, I wish I could have used for  
25 college, now that I started college.

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1 I have a lot of issues with money now. I can't spend  
2 money on food. I can't spend money on anything that can't be  
3 resold for exactly the same amount, because of my OCD, and it  
4 makes life really hard. I can't, like, buy gas. I can't buy  
5 water. I can't buy anything. I'm just trying to make back  
6 that money that I loaned to him.

7 And it was -- just this whole thing was just really hard  
8 for me. I feel now, coming out of it and starting college, I  
9 have pretty much no reference point to what's normal and  
10 healthy in life and just in existence, because I was basically  
11 in my room, kept in my room, for a year and a half. And he  
12 threatened to kill himself, threatened to kill my friends, just  
13 would have complete outbursts, scream at me, yell at me on the  
14 phone, threaten me, tell me I'm a horrible person. If I said,  
15 "Oh, I'm going to go hang out with someone," he would just say,  
16 like -- he would just find some way to force me to stay in my  
17 room. So I do feel like I was kept captive for a year and a  
18 half.

19 And I have had immense issues trying to even learn how to  
20 communicate with a person at a grocery store, trying to check  
21 out. I don't know how to talk to people. I don't know how to  
22 interact with people. He was my only human interaction for a  
23 year and a half. And he was so terribly abusive. I have no  
24 reference point for what is normal.

25 I've gotten into many more bad situations, bad people,

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1 just because I actually -- during those developmental years, I  
2 was just -- he was influencing all of my -- all of what I  
3 learned. And I just have -- I feel like I'm starting from  
4 scratch, starting from birth, at 16 years old, trying to  
5 navigate the world. And I don't know how to make friends. I  
6 don't know what's normal. I just don't know anything, how life  
7 is supposed to be.

8 I do feel like the life that I was put on this earth to  
9 live, I will never live because of Mr. Mahoney. I do feel like  
10 every single day for the rest of my future is going to be  
11 somehow impacted by this, and it has been. And it's just  
12 really hard.

13 And I know that Mr. Mahoney had -- has been diagnosed with  
14 bipolar and things of that sort. I've been diagnosed with  
15 bipolar too, though. I've been diagnosed with depression.  
16 I've been diagnosed with pretty much a laundry list of things,  
17 trying to figure out what in the world was wrong with me. I  
18 was already hospitalized for multiple heart issues,  
19 bradycardia, from age 13. He knew this. He knew I was weak.  
20 He -- I had an eating disorder. I was struggling with an  
21 autism-spectrum-related, anorexia-type eating disorder. He  
22 would use that against me constantly. He would -- he pretty  
23 much just used everything in his power to make me do whatever  
24 he wanted.

25 And I know that I'm never going to be the same, and I know

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1 that my family is never going to be the same, and I know that I  
2 will just not live the life that I would have if Mr. Mahoney  
3 hadn't become involved.

4 That's all, I guess. Thank you.

5 MS. GREGSON: There's not much I can add. I think  
6 the Court has plenty of information from both sides.

7 I think perhaps the defendant's personal issues precluded  
8 insightful analysis of the ramifications of engaging in a  
9 relationship with a child. Ten years -- approximately ten  
10 years doesn't make much of a difference when you're 50 or 60,  
11 but it sure makes a big difference between 21 and 13. I can't  
12 imagine a time in life where a ten-year period makes more of a  
13 difference, and I think the Court can see that and has also  
14 heard it today. The victim's impacts here are substantial.

15 The defendant does have some mitigating circumstances,  
16 which, of course, were taken into consideration by the  
17 government when we came to this agreed recommendation. He is  
18 young. He's had severe mental health and physical-related  
19 issues, and those are contemplated by the government in our  
20 ultimate resolution to the three counts of travel and one count  
21 of enticement.

22 I'd ask the Court to follow the government's  
23 recommendation. I do think that it is commensurate with other  
24 individuals who are similarly situated, although there are not  
25 many, not -- certainly not ones that I've prosecuted in this

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1 jurisdiction over the past six years.

2 There is a preliminary order of forfeiture I'd ask the  
3 Court to sign, for the devices that contain images of the  
4 victim. There was an appellate waiver in this case.

5 And if the Court does not have any further questions, that  
6 concludes the government's presentation.

7 THE COURT: Did you consult with the victim family in  
8 arriving at the ten-year recommendation?

9 MS. GREGSON: Your Honor, we did. I think in all  
10 cases, the government always coordinates.

11 THE COURT: I would have expected nothing different,  
12 but I guess I'm really troubled by the allocution from the  
13 mother and the victim today.

14 I guess the best I can do is just -- is to say that the  
15 amount of time that Mr. Mahoney serves is not going to be much  
16 comfort to the victim and her family in this case. I've been  
17 on the bench for 37 years. I've never seen a case that  
18 troubled me as much as this one does. But I -- you know,  
19 giving him an additional five years on top of the ten that  
20 you're recommending isn't going to accomplish anything, in my  
21 view. And I think it -- the government's recommendation is a  
22 thoughtful and carefully-arrived-at recommendation, one that I  
23 feel compelled to accept, and with apologies to the family, but  
24 I think that ten years is the appropriate resolution.

25 So I find the total offense level is -- the guideline

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1 range is 168 to 210 months. I'm imposing a period of  
2 confinement of 120 months, a period of supervised release of  
3 ten years. I note the defendant's objection to the ten years,  
4 but I'm imposing the ten years as recommended by the probation  
5 office. Restitution will be determined following submissions  
6 from the victim family and the government. I'm waiving the --  
7 I'm including the special assessment for the counts of  
8 conviction.

9 This sentence is a product of the guidelines, together  
10 with the factors of 18 U.S.C. Section 3553, with particular  
11 emphasis on the defendant's mental health issues, his  
12 dysfunctional childhood, but with overwhelming emphasis on the  
13 impact on the victim and the victim's family, but also noting  
14 that this is the joint recommendation of the parties; and  
15 therefore, I think it's appropriate.

16 I'm signing the order of forfeiture.

17 MR. CANTOR: Your Honor, in the judgment and  
18 sentence, would the Court allow us to include credit for time  
19 served since October 31, 2017?

20 THE COURT: I'll leave that to the Bureau of Prisons.

21 MR. CANTOR: And then Fort Dix as a recommendation?

22 THE COURT: Yes. Include Fort Dix as a  
23 recommendation.

24 Mr. Mahoney, you've waived the right to appeal this  
25 sentence except in very limited circumstances. If you wish to



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1 file a notice of appeal, it must be filed within 14 days of  
2 today. If you wish the assistance of an attorney in filing an  
3 appeal and cannot afford one, one will be appointed to assist  
4 you if you so request. If you wish the assistance of the clerk  
5 in filing a notice of appeal, he will assist you if you so  
6 request.

7 Do you understand?

8 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.

9 MS. GREGSON: And I've prepared the judgment and  
10 sentence from the Court's oral ruling.

11 May I present it to counsel?

12 THE COURT: Yes.

13 MR. CANTOR: I don't mean to delay, Your Honor. I  
14 just want to put one thing on the record here, if I may.

15 I don't believe the Bureau of Prisons is going to count  
16 any credit for the time that Mr. Mahoney has served since his  
17 arrest on this matter, because my understanding is, the Bureau  
18 of Prisons will only count the time that he starts serving once  
19 he is brought to the Federal Detention Center. So if the  
20 Court's intention is, of course, ten years, but ten years  
21 beginning in March of 2018, then that's the Court's intention.  
22 But if the Court's intention really is to sentence Mr. Mahoney  
23 to 120 months starting from the day he was arrested on this  
24 matter, I think we do need to include that language in the  
25 judgment and sentence. So that way, there's no confusion.

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1 THE COURT: I was aware of the problem, and I meant  
2 what I said.

3 MR. CANTOR: Okay. Well, with that, I have reviewed  
4 the judgment. It appears consistent with the Court's ruling,  
5 and I'll pass that forward.

6 Thank you.

7 THE COURT: We'll be in recess.

8 (Adjourned)

9  
10 C E R T I F I C A T E

11  
12 I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript from  
13 the record of proceedings in the above-entitled matter.

14 /s/ Andrea Ramirez

15 ANDREA RAMIREZ  
16 COURT REPORTER  
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